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STANDARD POSITION DESCRIPTION STATEMENT OF DIFFERENCE

(Not valid unless target job description is attached)

Official Title: Geologist Working Title: Geologist

Classification: GS-1350-09/11/12

Supervisory Code: 8

Date: 11/17/2009

Classified By: NHQ-HRMD-ECT

Number: NHQG1350091112

Note: This is a standard position description and can not be modified without the approval from the Human Resources Management Division, Employment & Classification Team, NRCS, in Washington, D.C.

I. INTRODUCTION

This position is located in the above indicated State Office and reports to the State Conservation Engineer. Incumbent is responsible for providing the full range of geological services to assigned geographic area as assigned by the Geological Services Unit.

This is a developmental position designed to prepare the incumbent to assume the full scope of the target position, Geologist, GS-1350-12 (Attached). The incumbent receives progressively more responsible assignments as experience and training are received to the next higher grade position of a GS-11 (Attached). The position is essentially the same as the target position. The supervisor assigns tasks and responsibilities, limitations, expected outcomes, deadlines, and priorities. Detailed instructions and training are provided on all new assignments. The incumbent performs work under general supervision, with spot checks of work in progress. Completed work is reviewed in terms of technical accuracy and administrative adequacy. Incumbent will perform developmental assignments under supervision closer than normal until proficiency is demonstrated. Incumbent may be non-competitively promoted to the target position upon: 1) demonstrating the capacity to perform the full range of duties at the target level satisfactorily; 2) meeting all legal and regulatory requirements; 3) certification by management that the target position still exists; and 4) recommendation by the supervisor.

II. MAJOR DUTIES

1. Geological Analysis (Approximately 50%)

- a. Assist in preparing geologic analysis services for land use categories as assigned by the senior Geologist. These may include, but are not be limited to: crop systems; pasture systems; waste systems; forest systems; wildlife systems; urban systems; irrigation systems; wetlands systems; rangeland systems; watershed planning; watershed applications; soils mapping; ponds; dams; grade stabilization structures; structure rehabilitation; and resource conservation and development.
- b. Assists in basic application of geologic evaluation for a variety of practices related to the specific systems applied. These may include, but are not limited to: well decommissioning; dam and spring development; agricultural waste storage facility construction; stream habitat improvement and management; sediment basin construction; irrigation water conveyance; wetland construction; and other commonly used practices and techniques.

c. In consultation with the supervisor on basic projects identifies the best technical methods to use based on analysis and assessment of the situation. Responsible for conducting geologic investigations as needed. Investigations may require the incumbent to prepare contract documents, secure assistance from local personnel, and identify and secure additional equipment to complete investigation.

2. Documentation and Studies (Approximately 50%)

- a. Assists in basic plans and modifies investigations based on knowledge of geologic field.
- b. Provides assistance with sedimentation studies to determine sediment storage requirements, and sediment surveys on existing reservoirs.
- c. Assists in preparing general or basic written reports, including interpretations of surface and subsurface conditions and conclusions concerning the suitability of all earth materials and ground water conditions for projects for all land use categories. Written products are tailored for use by other disciplines and program officials.

3. Civil Rights and Equal Employment Opportunity Responsibilities

Actively supports the Civil Rights program and communicates this support to subordinates, colleagues and customers. Ensures equality in all activities; assigns program functions and provides program assistance to individuals, groups and the general public without regard to race, sex, religion, national origin, physical handicap or age

Performs other duties as assigned.

CONDITION OF EMPLOYMENT - Operates a motor vehicle incident to the above duties. Must possess and maintain a valid state motor vehicle operator's license for the type of vehicle(s) operated. This will require the operation of a motor vehicle on both public and private roads during daylight hours and occasionally after dark.

Note: Position requires travel ranging from 10 to 25 percent.

III. EVALUATION FACTORS

1. KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED BY THE POSITION – LEVEL 1-6 (950 POINTS)

- a. Knowledge of professional geologic concepts, principles and practices applicable to a wide range of geologic services performed on systems such as: crop systems; pasture systems; waste systems; forest systems; wildlife systems; urban systems; irrigation systems; wetlands systems; rangeland systems; watershed planning; watershed applications; soils mapping; ponds; dams; grade stabilization structures; structure rehabilitation; and resource conservation and development.
- b. Knowledge of Natural Resources Conservation programs and objectives and how geologic analysis services can be applied to support them.
- c. Ability to communicate effectively, establish and maintain positive working relationships with a wide variety of individuals and organizations.

2. SUPERVISORY CONTROLS - LEVEL 2-3 (275 POINTS)

Incumbent receives regular supervision from the senior specialist or State Conservation Engineer. The supervisor makes assignments by describing and classifying the objectives to be achieved, priority levels and deadlines. The supervisor provides assistance on controversial or unusual situations that do not have clear precedents. Completed assignments are reviewed for technical soundness, consistency with agency requirements, and conformity with state mission and goals.

3. GUIDELINES LEVEL 3-3 (275 POINTS)

- a. General technical guidelines are provided in the National Engineering Handbook (NEH), and the National Engineering Manual (NEM). Test references, reports of other agencies, research reports, and other sources will frequently be consulted for unique situations.
- b. Guidelines require the incumbent to interpret and apply them to specific work situations. Incumbent must use considerable ingenuity and judgment in the use and expansion of guidelines in order to meet program objectives. Recommends, or discusses with the supervisor when the need arises to devise or formulate new procedures to secure technical information in widely varying geologic conditions.

4. COMPLEXITY LEVEL 4-3 (150 POINTS)

- a. Work assignments involve similar types of duties related to geologic analysis of systems and practices arising within assigned geographic area. The work requires the incumbent to respond to the basic geologic characteristics encountered.
- b. The work requires the incumbent to develop with the supervisor work priorities and to be able to identify a variety of issues and with the supervisor's direction choose a course of action from several alternatives or options

5. SCOPE AND EFFECT LEVEL 5-3 (150 POINTS)

- a. The purpose of the work is to perform professional geologic analysis services arising from on-going conservation programs and functions of the agency in assigned geographic area. The incumbent assists the senior Geologist in performing all geologic analysis services in the assigned geographic area. This includes providing technical guidance to field personnel in connection with detailed geologic analysis services.
- b. The work affects the safety and reliability of the systems and practices applied, and the ability of other agency programs to be carried out in a timely manner.

6/7 PERSONAL CONTACTS/ PURPOSE OF CONTACTS - LEVEL 3B (110 POINTS)

- a. Personal Contacts (Level 3) Personal contacts are with individual landowners, groups, land improvement contractors, agri-business representatives, management level representatives of state and local agencies and units of government, other USDA and federal agencies, other NRCS employees, local news media reporters, sportsmen clubs, property associations, and regional environmental groups.
- b. Purpose of Contacts (Level B) The purpose of the contacts is to plan, coordinate, or advise on the implementation of a broad range of agronomy, erosion and pollution abatement practices and measures,

to recommend alternative conservation solutions and to motivate individuals and groups to pursue wise land-use decisions. Individuals and groups contacted are generally cooperative and are interested in receiving technical assistance in resolving problems/concerns.

8. PHYSICAL DEMANDS – LEVEL 8-2 (20 POINTS)

Work is typically performed in both field and office settings. During field visits the work requires the incumbent to walk over uneven fields and difficult terrain, recurring bending, crouching or stooping, and carrying of light items less than 35 pounds. Construction site visits may pose hazards associated with heavy equipment and exposure to agricultural wastes and pesticides.

9. WORK ENVIRONMENT – LEVEL (20 POINTS)

Work that is preformed in an office setting is adequately lighted, heated and ventilated. Field visits may involve exposure to construction equipment and environments where safety precautions must be observed such as wearing boots, gloves, hard hat, etc.

Total Points = 1950 (Range GS-09- 1855-2100)

FLSA - This position is determined to be non-exempt n accordance with 5CFR 551.204.

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STANDARD POSITION DESCRIPTION

Official Title: Geologist Working Title: Geologist Classification: GS-1350-11

Supervisory Code: 8

Date: 11/17/2009 Classified By: NHQ

Number: NHQG135091112

Note: This is a standard position description and can not be modified without the approval from the Human Resources Management Division, Employment & Classification Team, NRCS, in Washington, D.C.

I. INTRODUCTION

This position is located in the above indicated State Office and reports to the State Conservation Engineer. Incumbent is responsible for providing the full range of geological services to assigned geographic area as assigned by the Geological Services Unit.

This is a developmental position designed to prepare the incumbent to assume the full scope of the target position, Geologist, GS-1350-12 (Attached). The incumbent receives progressively more responsible assignments as experience and training are received to the next higher grade position of a GS-12. The position is essentially the same as the target position. The supervisor assigns tasks and responsibilities, limitations, expected outcomes, deadlines, and priorities. Detailed instructions and training are provided on all new assignments. The incumbent performs work under general supervision, with spot checks of work in progress. Completed work is reviewed in terms of technical accuracy and administrative adequacy. Incumbent will perform developmental assignments under supervision closer than normal until proficiency is demonstrated. Incumbent may be non-competitively promoted to the target position upon: 1) demonstrating the capacity to perform the full range of duties at the target level satisfactorily; 2) meeting all legal and regulatory requirements; 3) certification by management that the target position still exists; and 4) recommendation by the supervisor.

II. MAJOR DUTIES

1. Geological Analysis (Approximately 50%)

- a. Prepares geologic analysis services for land use categories as assigned by the senior Geologist. These may include, but are not be limited to: crop systems; pasture systems; waste systems; forest systems; wildlife systems; urban systems; irrigation systems; wetlands systems; rangeland systems; watershed planning; watershed applications; soils mapping; ponds; dams; grade stabilization structures; structure rehabilitation; and resource conservation and development.
- b. Applies geologic evaluation for a variety of practices related to the specific systems applied. These may include, but are not limited to: well decommissioning; dam and spring development; agricultural waste storage facility construction; stream habitat improvement and management; sediment basin construction; irrigation water conveyance; wetland construction; and other commonly used practices and techniques.
- c. In consultation with the supervisor identifies the best technical methods to use based on analysis and assessment of the situation. Responsible for conducting geologic investigations as needed. Investigations may require the incumbent to prepare contract documents, secure assistance from local personnel, and identify and secure additional equipment to complete investigation.

2. Documentation and Studies (Approximately 50%)

- a. Plans and modifies investigations independently based on knowledge of geologic field.
- b. Conducts sedimentation studies to determine sediment storage requirements, and sediment surveys on existing reservoirs.
- c. Prepares written reports, including interpretations of surface and subsurface conditions and conclusions concerning the suitability of all earth materials and ground water conditions for projects for all land use categories. Written products are tailored for use by other disciplines and program officials.

3. Civil Rights and Equal Employment Opportunity Responsibilities

Actively supports the Civil Rights program and communicates this support to subordinates, colleagues and customers. Ensures equality in all activities; assigns program functions and provides program assistance to individuals, groups and the general public without regard to race, sex, religion, national origin, physical handicap or age

Performs other duties as assigned.

CONDITION OF EMPLOYMENT - Operates a motor vehicle incident to the above duties. Must possess and maintain a valid state motor vehicle operator's license for the type of vehicle(s) operated. This will require the operation of a motor vehicle on both public and private roads during daylight hours and occasionally after dark.

Note: Position requires travel ranging from 10 to 25 percent.

III. EVALUATION FACTORS

1. KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED BY THE POSITION – LEVEL 1-7 (1250 POINTS)

- a. Knowledge of professional geologic concepts, principles and practices applicable to a wide range of geologic services performed on systems such as: crop systems; pasture systems; waste systems; forest systems; wildlife systems; urban systems; irrigation systems; wetlands systems; rangeland systems; watershed planning; watershed applications; soils mapping; ponds; dams; grade stabilization structures; structure rehabilitation; and resource conservation and development.
- b. Knowledge of geologic practices and techniques in order to analyze, design and apply a variety of practices such as: filter strips; pest management; subsurface drains; land clearing; waste storage facilities; forest site preparation; fishpond management; sediment basin; irrigation storage reservoir; toxic salt reduction, and other commonly used practices and techniques.
- c. Knowledge of established, innovative and emerging technologies related to the geology in order to apply to on-going program work.
- d. Knowledge of Natural Resources Conservation programs and objectives and how geologic analysis services can be applied to support them.

e. Ability to communicate effectively, establish and maintain positive working relationships with a wide variety of individuals and organizations.

2. SUPERVISORY CONTROLS - LEVEL 2-3 (275 POINTS)

Incumbent receives regular supervision from the State Conservation Engineer. The supervisor makes assignments by describing and classifying the objectives to be achieved, priority levels and deadlines.

The supervisor provides assistance on controversial or unusual situations that do not have clear precedents. Completed assignments are reviewed for technical soundness, consistency with agency requirements, and conformity with state mission and goals.

3. GUIDELINES LEVEL 3-3 (275 POINTS)

- a. General technical guidelines are provided in the National Engineering Handbook (NEH), and the National Engineering Manual (NEM). Test references, reports of other agencies, research reports, and other sources will frequently be consulted for unique situations.
- b. Guidelines require the incumbent to interpret and apply them to specific work situations. Incumbent must use considerable ingenuity and judgment in the use and expansion of guidelines in order to meet program objectives. Recommends, or discusses with the supervisor when the need arises to devise or formulate new procedures to secure technical information in widely varying geologic conditions.

4. COMPLEXITY LEVEL 4-4 (225 POINTS)

- a. Work assignments involve a variety of duties related to geologic analysis of systems and practices arising within assigned geographic area. The work requires the incumbent to respond to the complex geologic characteristics encountered. Since engineered construction for soil and water conservation in all states involves the widest range of practices and structures, a thorough understanding of engineering design, the capabilities of exploration equipment and techniques, and the elements of soil and rock mechanics are requirements of this position.
- b. The work requires the incumbent to develop with the supervisor work priorities and to be able to identify a variety of issues and choose a course of action from several alternatives or options. Incumbent may be required to work with several states requiring a high degree of decision making and interpersonal skills and abilities.

5. SCOPE AND EFFECT LEVEL 5-3 (150 POINTS)

- a. The purpose of the work is to perform professional geologic analysis services arising from on-going conservation programs and functions of the agency in assigned geographic area. The incumbent assists the senior Geologist in performing all geologic analysis services in the assigned geographic area. This includes providing technical guidance to field personnel in connection with detailed geologic analysis services.
- b. The work affects the safety and reliability of the systems and practices applied, and the ability of other agency programs to be carried out in a timely manner.

6. & 7. PERSONAL & PURPOSE OF CONTACTS LEVEL 3C (180 POINTS)

- a. Purpose of Contacts Contacts are with all levels within the state and with geologic officials in National Headquarters and in the Ft. Worth Center, and with contractors and representatives of other Federal, state and local agencies, local organizations, technical organizations, and local interest groups.
- b. Purpose of Contacts Contacts are for the purpose of providing professional geologic analysis as required for the implementation of NRCS programs. Information and reports prepared by the incumbent will be used by others in their phases of resource projects or other state programs. Incumbent also provides training and makes oral presentations as requested.

8. PHYSICAL DEMANDS – LEVEL 8-2 (20 POINTS)

Work is typically performed in both field and office settings. During field visits the work requires the incumbent to walk over uneven fields and difficult terrain, recurring bending, crouching or stooping, and carrying of light items less than 35 pounds. Construction site visits may pose hazards associated with heavy equipment and exposure to agricultural wastes and pesticides.

9. WORK ENVIRONMENT – LEVEL (20 POINTS)

Work that is preformed in an office setting is adequately lighted, heated and ventilated. Field visits may involve exposure to construction equipment and environments where safety precautions must be observed such as wearing boots, gloves, hard hat, etc.

Total Points = 2570 (Range 2355-2570)

FLSA - This position is determined to be exempt n accordance with 5CFR 551.204.

NOTE: This position was moved from the "Most Efficient Organization" to the Geological Services Unit effective October 1, 2009. Minor organizational changes have been made to change the organizational unit. 09/28/09 mdl

EVALUATION STATEMENT GEOLOGIST GS-1350-11 USDA – NRCS

Reference

a. OPM Job Family Standard for GS-1300, Professional Physical Science Work, Dec 97
b. OPM Professional Work in the Engineering and Architecture Group, 0800 November 2008

INTRODUCTION

This position is located in a designated state office with multi-state responsibility with USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service. This position is located in the assigned State Office and reports to the State Conservation Engineer. Incumbent is responsible for providing the full range of geological services to assigned geographic area as assigned by the Geological Services Unit.

SERIES AND TITLE DETERMINATION

Duties of the position are properly classified in the Geologist series 1350 referenced above. This series includes professional scientific positions applying knowledge of the principles and theories of geology and related sciences in the collection, measurement, analysis, evaluation, and interpretation of geologic information concerning the structure, composition, and history of the earth. This includes the performance of basic research to establish fundamental principles and hypotheses to develop a fuller knowledge and understanding of geology, and the application of these principles and knowledge to a variety of scientific, engineering, and economic problems. Position performs professional work in investigating, collecting, evaluating and analyzing geologic information. Allocation to the GS-1350 series is appropriate, IAW Series Coverage of the GS-1300 standard. Also in accordance with such standard, position is titled Geologist.

GRADE LEVEL DETERMINATION

The OPM JFS Professional Physical Science Work, GS 1300, DEC 97 is not in the FES format but the series is closely related to the Professional Work in the Engineering and Architecture Group, 0800 November 2008. The Professional Work in the Engineering and Architecture Group, 0800 November 2008 was applied and as indicated below series and grade remained GS-1350-12. This guide uses a factor evaluation process to determine the appropriate grade. The evaluation listed below identified the **technical** responsibilities required for this position. The Job Family Standard is a factor-by-factor analysis to determine the proper grade for this position using the new standard:

	POSITION	EVALUATION	I SUMMAR'	Y
Evaluation Factors	,	Factor Level Used (FL#, etc.)	Points Assigned	Comments
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2. Supervisory Cont	rols	2-3	275	
3. Guidelines		3-3	275	
4. Complexity		4-4	225	
5. Scope and Effect		5-3	150	
6. & 7. Personal Con of Contacts	ntacts & Purpose	3C	180	
8. Physical Demand	S	8-2	20	
9. Work Environme	nt	9-2	20	
	Total Points		2395	Classified by: Darlene Locke, Human Resources Specialist, HRMD
SUMMARY	Grade Conversion	2355-2750	GS-11	Date: September 28, 2009

FLSA DETERMINATION: FLSA Determination: IAW guidance contained in CFR551.207 for Professional positions, position meets conditions (1)(a) and (2), (3) of the FLSA exemption criteria. Position is therefore determined to be Exempt.

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FORM AD-332 (Reverse) (4/86)

MASTER RECORD/INDIVIDUAL POSITION DATA

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STANDARD POSITION DESCRIPTION

Official Title: Geologist Working Title: Geologist Classified By: NHO

Number: NHQG135012

Date: 10/08/08

Date Modified: 09/28/09 **Classification:** GS-1350-12

Note: This is a standard position description and can not be modified without the approval from the Human Resources Management Division, Employment & Classification Team, NRCS, in Washington, D.C.

I. INTRODUCTION

This position is located in the above indicated State Office and reports to the State Conservation Engineer. Incumbent is responsible for providing the full range of geological services to assigned geographic area as assigned by the Geological Services Unit.

II. MAJOR DUTIES

1. Geological Analysis (Approximately 50%)

- a. Provides geologic analysis services for land use categories in assigned geographic area. These may include, but are not be limited to: crop systems; pasture systems; waste systems; forest systems; wildlife systems; urban systems; irrigation systems; wetlands systems; rangeland systems; watershed planning; watershed applications; soils mapping; ponds; dams; grade stabilization structures; structure rehabilitation; and resource conservation and development.
- b. Applies geologic evaluation for a variety of practices related to the specific systems applied. These may include, but are not limited to: well decommissioning; dam and spring development; agricultural waste storage facility construction; stream habitat improvement and management; sediment basin construction; irrigation water conveyance; wetland construction; and other commonly used practices and techniques.
- c. Determines the best technical methods to use based on analysis and assessment of the situation. Responsible for conducting geologic investigations as needed. Investigations may require the incumbent to prepare contract documents, secure assistance from local personnel, and identify and secure additional equipment to complete investigation.

2. Documentation and Studies (Approximately 40%)

- a. Plans and modifies investigations independently based on knowledge of geologic field.
- b. Conducts sedimentation studies to determine sediment storage requirements, and sediment surveys on existing reservoirs.
- c. Prepares written reports, including interpretations of surface and subsurface conditions and conclusions concerning the suitability of all earth materials and ground water conditions for projects for all land use categories. Written products are tailored for use by other disciplines and program officials.

Geologist, GS-1350-12

3. Supervision (Approximately 10%) - Optional

Performs supervisory responsibilities; Plans and assigns work of subordinates, sets and adjusts short-term priorities, and prepares schedules for work completion. Assigns work based on priorities, selective consideration of the difficulty and requirements of assignments and capabilities of employees. Evaluates work performance. Gives advice to or counsels employees on work and administrative matters. Interviews candidates for vacant positions, and recommends promotions or reassignments. The incumbent identifies developmental and training needs of employees, providing or arranging for needed training or development; develops performance standards; hears and resolves complaints, referring group grievances and more serious unresolved complaints to higher level supervisor. Finds ways to improve work production or increase work.

4. Civil Rights and Equal Employment Opportunity Responsibilities

- a. Provides leadership and guidance in the design, development, and maintenance of administrative procedures to assure that delivery of NRCS programs and services is carried out without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or handicap. Reviews the implementation of civil rights policies to determine that they are translated into appropriate actions consistent with annual plans of operation in all units under their supervision, as well as be recipients.
- b. Provides leadership and guidance for the understanding and application of personnel rules and regulations as they apply to the Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Employment Programs to ensure their integration into recruitment, hiring, promotion, training, career development (including varied work assignments, details, and special developmental assignments), and other personnel actions. Emphasizes meeting the objectives of equal opportunity and affirmative employment plans and requirements. Ensures that these functions are carried out without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or physical or mental handicap.

Performs other duties as assigned.

CONDITION OF EMPLOYMENT - Operates a motor vehicle incident to the above duties. Must possess and maintain a valid state motor vehicle operator's license for the type of vehicle(s) operated. This will require the operation of a motor vehicle on both public and private roads during daylight hours and occasionally after dark.

Note: Position requires travel ranging from 10 to 25 percent.

III. EVALUATION FACTORS

1. KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED BY THE POSITION – LEVEL 1-7 (1250 POINTS)

- a. Knowledge of professional geologic concepts, principles and practices applicable to a wide range of geologic services performed on systems such as: crop systems; pasture systems; waste systems; forest systems; wildlife systems; urban systems; irrigation systems; wetlands systems; rangeland systems; watershed planning; watershed applications; soils mapping; ponds; dams; grade stabilization structures; structure rehabilitation; and resource conservation and development.
- b. Knowledge of geologic practices and techniques in order to analyze, design and apply a variety of practices such as: filter strips; pest management; subsurface drains; land clearing; waste storage

Geologist, GS-1350-12

facilities; forest site preparation; fishpond management; sediment basin; irrigation storage reservoir; toxic salt reduction, and other commonly used practices and techniques.

- c. Knowledge of established, innovative and emerging technologies related to geology in order to apply to on-going program work.
- d. Knowledge of Natural Resources Conservation programs and objectives and how geologic analysis services can be applied to support them.
- e. Ability to communicate effectively, establish and maintain positive working relationships with a wide variety of individuals and organizations.

2. SUPERVISORY CONTROLS LEVEL 2-4 (450 POINTS)

- a. The incumbent receives general policy, programmatic, technical and budgetary direction from the supervisor, the State Conservation Engineer. With minimal supervision develops plans and manages the geologic program for assigned geographic area. Incumbent independently handles day-to-day problems that arise only referring the most complex, precedent setting problems to higher levels.
- b. Completed work is considered technically sound and is normally accepted without any changes. Due to the fact that this position is part of a competitive sourcing study completed work is subject to quality reviews outside of the supervisory chain.

3. GUIDELINES LEVEL 3-4 (450 POINTS)

- a. General technical guidelines are provided in the National Engineering Handbook (NEH), and the National Engineering Manual (NEM). Test references, reports of other agencies, research reports, and other sources will frequently be consulted for unique situations.
- b. Guidelines require the incumbent to interpret and apply them to specific work situations. Incumbent must use considerable ingenuity, judgment, resourcefulness in deviating in the use and expansion of guidelines in order to meet program objectives, and independently devises and formulates procedures to secure technical information in widely varying geologic conditions.

4. COMPLEXITY LEVEL 4-4 (225 POINTS)

- a. Work assignments involve a variety of duties related to geologic analysis of systems and practices arising within assigned geographic area. The work requires the incumbent to respond to the complex geological characteristics encountered as the lead expert in geology. Since engineered construction for soil and water conservation in all states involves the widest range of practices and structures, a thorough understanding of engineering design, the capabilities of exploration equipment and techniques, and the elements of soil and rock mechanics are requirements of this position.
- b. The work requires the incumbent to independently establish and coordinate work priorities and to be able to exercise initiative and judgment in recognizing and acting upon deviations encountered. Incumbent may be required to work with several states and to provide guidance to a subordinate Geologist requiring a high degree of decision making and interpersonal skills and abilities.

5. SCOPE AND EFFECT LEVEL 5-4 (225 POINTS)

Geologist, GS-1350-12

- a. The purpose of the work is to perform professional geologic analysis services arising from on-going conservation programs and functions of the agency in assigned geographic area. The incumbent is responsible for all geologic analysis services and has complete responsibility for the aspects of all NRCS geologic programs applicable in the assigned geographic area. This includes providing technical guidance to field personnel in connection with detailed geologic analysis services.
- b. The work affects the safety and reliability of the systems and practices applied, and the ability of other agency programs to be carried out in a timely manner.

6. & 7. PERSONAL & PURPOSE OF CONTACTS LEVEL 6-3, 7C (180 POINTS)

- a. Personal Contacts Personal contacts are with all levels within the state and with geologic officials in National Headquarters and in the Ft. Worth Center, and with contractors and representatives of other Federal, state and local agencies, local organizations, technical organizations, and local interest groups.
- b. Purpose of Contacts Contacts are for the purpose of providing professional geologic analysis as required for the implementation of NRCS programs. Information and reports prepared by the incumbent will be used by others in their phases of resource projects or other state programs. Incumbent also provides training and makes oral presentations as requested.

8. PHYSICAL DEMANDS - LEVELS 8-2 (20 POINTS)

Work is typically performed in both field and office settings. During field visits the work requires the incumbent to walk over uneven fields and difficult terrain, recurring bending, crouching or stooping, and carrying of light items less than 35 pounds. Construction site visits may pose hazards associated with heavy equipment and exposure to agricultural wastes and pesticides.

9. WORK ENVIRONMENT –LEVEL 9-2 (20 POINTS)

Work that is preformed in an office setting is adequately lighted, heated and ventilated. Field visits may involve exposure to construction equipment and environments where safety precautions must be observed such as wearing boots, gloves, hard hat, etc.

Total Points = 2820 (Range 2755-3150)

FLSA - This position is determined to be exempt n accordance with 5CFR 551.204.

NOTE: This position was moved from the "Most Efficient Organization" to the Geological Services Unit effective October 1, 2009. Minor organizational changes have been made to change the organizational unit. 09/28/09 mdl

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EVALUATION STATEMENT GEOLOGIST GS-1350-12 USDA – NRCS

Reference

- a. OPM Job Family Standard for GS-1300, Professional Physical Science Work, Dec 97
- b. OPM Professional Work in the Engineering and Architecture Group, 0800 November 2008
- c. OPM General Schedule Supervisory Guide, TS-123, APR 98

INTRODUCTION

This position is located in a designated state office with multi-state responsibility with USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service. This position is located in the assigned State Office and reports to the State Conservation Engineer. Incumbent is responsible for providing the full range of geological services to assigned geographic area as assigned by the Geological Services Unit.

SERIES AND TITLE DETERMINATION

Duties of the position are properly classified in the Geologist series 1350 referenced above. This series includes professional scientific positions applying knowledge of the principles and theories of geology and related sciences in the collection, measurement, analysis, evaluation, and interpretation of geologic information concerning the structure, composition, and history of the earth. This includes the performance of basic research to establish fundamental principles and hypotheses to develop a fuller knowledge and understanding of geology, and the application of these principles and knowledge to a variety of scientific, engineering, and economic problems. Position performs professional work in investigating, collecting, evaluating and analyzing geologic information. Allocation to the GS-1350 series is appropriate, IAW Series Coverage of the GS-1300 standard. Also in accordance with such standard, position is titled Geologist.

GRADE LEVEL DETERMINATION

The standard, OPM General Schedule Supervisory Guide, TS-123, APR 98 was applied because there are supervisory duties are performed less than 25% of the time. Supervisory duties are not grade controlling. The OPM JFS Professional Physical Science Work, GS 1300, DEC 97 is not in the FES format but the series is closely related to the Professional Work in the Engineering and Architecture Group, 0800 November 2008. The Professional Work in the Engineering and Architecture Group, 0800 November 2008 was applied and as indicated below series and grade remained GS-1350-12. This guide uses a factor evaluation process to determine the appropriate grade. The evaluation listed below identified the **technical** responsibilities required for this position. The Job Family Standard is a factor-by-factor analysis to determine the proper grade for this position using the new standard:

Geologist, GS-1350-12 5

	POSITION	EVALUATION	N SUMMAR	Y
Evaluation Factor	s	Factor Level Used (FL#, etc.)	Points Assigned	Comments
Knowledge Requ Position	ired by the	1-7	1250	
2. Supervisory Con	trols	2-4	450	
3. Guidelines		3-4	450	
4. Complexity		4-4	225	
5. Scope and Effect		5-4	225	
6. & 7. Personal Co of Contacts	ntacts & Purpose	3C	180	
8. Physical Demand	ls	8-2	20	
9. Work Environme	nt	9-2	20	
Total Points			2820	Classified by: Darlene Locke, Human Resources Specialist, HRMD
SUMMARY	Grade Conversion	2755-3150	GS-12	Date: September 28, 2009

FLSA DETERMINATION: FLSA Determination: IAW guidance contained in CFR551.207 for Professional positions, position meets conditions (1)(a) and (2), (3) of the FLSA exemption criteria. Position is therefore determined to be Exempt.